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PATENT  
Customer Number: 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 7785.0005-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar L. AVANT et al.

Application No.: 09/652,708

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS  
FOR READING AN  
IDENTIFICATION CODE  
FROM A MAILPIECE

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)  
) Group Art Unit: 3653  
)  
) Examiner: Unknown  
)  
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any co-pending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a full translation of the non-English documents, English language abstracts have been submitted.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 28, 2000

By: *Lionel M. Lavenue*  
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